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Contacts:

Natural Resources Commission NRC@Nebraska.gov

Rex Gittins, Director of Administration The Department of Natural Resources (402) 471-2366 rex.gittins@nebraska.gov

Nebraska's Natural Resources Commission Searching for a Few Good Projects

(Lincoln, NE) The Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is a new source of financial support for programs, projects or activities that can help the State of Nebraska achieve its goals for sustainable use of its water resources. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission has adopted rules governing the operation of the WSF and applications for funding will be accepted from December 16 – 30, 2015.

As stated in the enabling legislation, LB1098 (2014), cost-share funding will be available for approved programs, projects, and activities which: (a) increase aquifer recharge, reduce aquifer depletion, and increase streamflow; (b) remediate or mitigate threats to drinking water; (c) promote the goals and objectives of approved integrated management plans or ground water management plans; (d) contribute to multiple water supply management goals including flood control, reducing threats to property damage, agricultural uses, municipal and industrial uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation, and preservation of water resources; (e) assist municipalities with the cost of constructing, upgrading, developing, and replacing sewer infrastructure facilities as part of a combined sewer overflow project; (f) provide increased water productivity and enhance water quality; (g) use the most cost-effective solutions available; and (h) comply with interstate compacts, decrees, other state contracts and agreements and federal law. The rules specify eligibility criteria and the methodology used to score and rank applications.

Statutes, rules, applicant guidelines and a downloadable application form are available on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission website at: https://nrc.nebraska.gov/water-sustainability-fund-0.